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Atkinson has given us a much larger amount of information concerning the countries he traversed than could be gathered from all other authorities.

26. — *The Elements of Logic: adapted to the Capacity of Younger Students, and designed for Academies and the Higher Classes of Common Schools.* By CHARLES K. TRUE, D. D. Revised Edition. New York: Carlton and Porter. 1861. 16mo. pp. 176.

THE first edition of this treatise appeared twenty years ago. We suppose that it has been used but little as a text-book; for it is too small and modest to win favor in colleges and schools of the higher grade, while the expediency of introducing logic into more elementary schools has scarcely been recognized, notwithstanding the profligate waste of time and brain on the far less comprehensible, practical, and useful science of grammar. We believe that, with a treatise as simple as Dr. True's, all college students might *understand* logic, and the higher classes of our academies and grammar schools be emboldened to study it; while the study of the treatises in ordinary use is now almost wholly confined to colleges, and the understanding of them to a small percentage of each class. We give this book, therefore, our cordial commendation. It is short and simple, not because it is shallow and superficial, but because the author has the mastery of his science, knows how it ought to be taught, perceives the utility of its study to all persons of intelligence and culture, and has adapted his presentation of it to this so desirable end.

27. — *Student Life: Letters and Recollections for a Young Friend.* By SAMUEL OSGOOD, Author of "Studies in Biography," "The Hearth-Stone," "Mile-Stones," &c. New York: James Miller. 1861. 12mo. pp. 164.

THIS volume is in part new, in part compiled from pre-existing materials, and its contents are of varying, though we cannot say unequal value. What interests us most is a series of seven letters actually addressed to a young friend now in the Freshman Class of Harvard University. They cover all the leading topics of fitting advice to a student, and they convey just such advice as every father would wish his son to have, and that too, not *ex cathedra*, but at once with the ease and *abandon* of a familiar talk and the elegance of carefully finished composition.

No student could take up these letters without reading them through, and we wish that they were printed separately, as, not half filling the volume, they would be likely to have twice the circulation of the whole. The author next gives us extracts from two of his own college orations, worthy in their moral tone of his present calling and years, and betraying his youth, not by immaturity of thought, but only by the studied euphuism which marks the facile pupil of the rhetorical professor. Next we have Dr. Osgood's genial Address at the meeting of his class twenty-five years after graduating, followed by Rev. Charles T. Brooks's Poem on the same occasion, of which Dr. Osgood says without exaggeration: "If the bulk of the book were but earth, this rose, like that of Saadi's Gulistan, would be enough to sweeten the whole lump." An essay on "The Use of Time," and a letter on "Study in the Country," — excellent in themselves, but, unlike the rest of the book, destitute of any direct pertinency to college life, — conclude the volume.

28. — *Elsie Venner; a Romance of Destiny.* By OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, Author of "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," etc. In two Volumes. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 16mo. pp. 288, 312.

WHO has not read *Elsie Venner*, as far at least as the story has appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*? It is superfluous for us to write a word about its perfect characterization, its unsurpassed traits of wit and veins of humor, and its gushes of such tenderness and pathos as show that the author sympathizes with his *dramatis personæ* as heartily as if they were of his own household. Beneath all this, as Dr. Holmes hints in his Preface, and as we had previously inferred from the tale, lay the purpose of presenting, hypothetically and tentatively, a theory with regard to the potency of certain ante-natal physical influences to whose mysterious working *Elsie* lives and dies a victim. But over all and above all, the book has a value almost unapproached in its giving us a wise physician's views as to certain physico-moral and physico-religious states, phenomena, and questions, the discussion of which is usually abandoned to the moralist or the divine, but as to which the medical adviser often has by far the best opportunities of observation and materials for judgment. In the formulas which represent human condition and character there are both constants and variables. The teacher of ethics or religion never forgets the constants, but is very apt to ignore the variables, and the more so in the proportion in which they would affect the final result. Thus he dwells with never-ceasing